

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 9 and 13 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of modulating an apoptosis-inhibiting effect in a target cell or tissue of a mutant EGFR gene, comprising administering to the cell or tissue an amount of a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that is effective to reduce resistance to induction of apoptosis or resistance to an increased rate of apoptosis in the target cell or tissue in combination with a therapy that is effective to induce apoptosis or to increase the rate of apoptosis in the cell or tissue, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is relatively selective for a protein encoded by the mutant EGFR gene.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the mutant EGFR gene is constitutively active.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the mutant EGFR gene is Δ EGFR.

4. (previously presented) The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the cell or tissue is a tumor selected from the group consisting of glioma, breast cancer, lung cancer and ovarian cancer.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the tumor is a glioma.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the apoptosis inducing or apoptosis rate increasing therapy is the administration of an agent selected from the group consisting of cisplatin, paclitaxel and vincristine.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is ~~relatively~~ selective for a tumor specific mutant EGFR.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Tyrphostin AG1478 and its derivatives.

9. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mixture of:

(a) an amount of an agent that is effective to induce apoptosis or to increase a rate of apoptosis in a target cell or tissue; and

(b) an amount of a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that is relatively selective for a protein encoded by the mutant EGFR gene, and is effective to reduce resistance to induction of apoptosis or resistance to the increased rate of apoptosis in the target cell or tissue expressing a mutant EGFR gene, the resistance being mediated by a mutant EGFR.

10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the apoptosis inducing or apoptosis rate increasing agent is an antitumor agent selected from the group consisting of cisplatin, paclitaxel and vincristine.

11. (currently amended) The composition of claim 9, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is relatively selective for a tumor specific EGFR.

12. (previously presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the tyrosine inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Tyrphostin AG1478 and its derivatives, wherein said derivatives have lower toxicity, better selectivity for Δ EGFR or greater bioavailability than AG1478.

13. (currently amended) A kit for treating cancer comprising:

(a) an amount of an agent that is effective to induce apoptosis or increase a rate of apoptosis in a target cell or tissue; and

(b) an amount of a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that is relatively selective for a protein encoded by the mutant EGFR gene, and is effective to reduce resistance to induction of apoptosis or resistance to the increased rate of apoptosis in the target cell or tissue expressing a mutant EGFR gene, the resistance being mediated by a mutant EGFR.

14. (previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the apoptosis inducing or apoptosis rate increasing agent is an antitumor agent selected from the group consisting of cisplatin, paclitaxel and vincristine.

15. (currently amended) The kit of claim 13, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is ~~relatively~~ selective for a tumor specific EGFR.

16. (previously presented) The kit of claim 13, wherein the tyrosine kinase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Tyrphostin AG1478 and its derivatives.